

KAF Troops Assist Afghans in Hajj Process

*Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson
211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment*

Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan — Afghanistan is a country where acceptance of foreigners is reserved at best. After so many years of conflict and so many would-be conquerors, people in this remote part of the world have little faith in anything, let alone the strangers they see driving their streets and flying over head in noisy aircraft. Americans fighting the war on terrorism know that actions speak louder than words. In order to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people, they must show that they are here to help.

Two years after ousting the oppressive Taliban Regime, U.S. forces have demonstrated by their deeds, that they are here to help the Afghans rebuild their country and preserve their culture. In a display of goodwill and cooperative spirit, members of 3/6th Field Artillery and 274th Military Police have joined efforts with Afghan Military

Force (AMF) members to provide security and protection to local Muslims participating in the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

Considered the cornerstone event of the Islamic faith, the Hajj is the journey of a lifetime for Muslims. Less than 10% of all Muslims are



Local Afghans await Their flight to Mecca

fortunate enough to attend, mostly for financial or health reasons. Over 1,600 locals from Kandahar City and neighboring regions have converged on Kandahar Air Field (KAF) in recent weeks to catch Ariana Airlines flights to the sacred Saudi Arabian city. Most of the pilgrims are well-respected elders of their communities and have been sponsored by people in their villages pooling their funds to raise the \$1,800 (U.S.) required for the flight and 40-day stay in Mecca. Some 3,500 Afghans are scheduled to depart through the U.S. led

Coalition Base.

Cpt. James W. Huffman from Pickerington, OH, oversees the process as the Pilgrims are bussed onto the base and processed for the

See Hajj pg. 3

Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan --

Kandahar Air Field (KAF) air traffic control isn't a fight against the pull of gravity; it's the art of guiding heavy, fast moving, steel winged, birds to the ground. Air Force C-130 and C-17 planes stream constantly in and out of KAF, along with other planes from civilian airliners and commercial cargo carriers. The Air Force Contract Augmentation Program (AFCAP) is a new program being tested out in theater as well as several countries around Afghanistan. The program involves civilian air traffic controllers used to free up military air traffic control assets. AFCAP is in the process of taking over air traffic control operations in Bagram Air Field, Manas, Kharshi Khandand, and KAF.

AFCAP is a group of different companies, put

AFCAP Keeps the skies safe

*Story by Spc. Tim Melzow
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together for this program. Each company is responsible for doing a different task; providing personnel for the flight tower, the approach radar, navigational aids, radios, and maintenance for the equipment. Each member is in country for one year, and after 6 months they get a one week break. There are around 32 members here, eventually going up to 44 members. AFCAP is based out of Tyndall Air

Force Base, which is on the outskirts of Panama City, FL.

AFCAP came to KAF to replace Echo Company, 120th Air Traffic Control, an Army National Guard unit from Maine at the beginning of November. AFCAP's site manager, Bob McGill from Denver, CO. comments on how smooth and well the transition between Echo Company 120th and AFCAP went.

"The transition went well. We are pleased with the results. It was very smooth. And within the month, we should be in total control," said McGill.

AFCAP has all the essential equipment needed to effectively run an airfield. It was left by Echo 120th. AFCAP will eventually get its own equipment after they assess what they need, and it will

See AFCAP pg. 3





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Kandahar Fire Department Tip of the Week

Parking is not allowed in fire lanes; fire lanes must be free of obstructions at all time. Should it become necessary to use the fire lane for vehicle loading or unloading, the operator must remain with the vehicle. Emergency vehicle access will be maintained during all exercises. Barricades, wire, sand bags, etc. will not prevent fire department access to buildings or tents in case of real world emergencies.

In case of fire or emergency, contact the KAF fire department hotline at 303-582-3020

Submitted by TSgt Michael Hoesch, Assistant Fire Chief.





AFCAP from pg. 1
then be shipped over to KAF. At that time all of Echo 120th 's equipment will be returned to them. McGill admits he is surprised that he and his crew have a chance to make a difference in Operation Enduring Freedom.

"It's interesting, taking on a military role. And one that is of tactical importance. It's a new and interesting program that the Air Force is doing I am proud to be here," said McGill.

Juan Sosa, AFCAP Head of Maintenance, from Fort Worth, TX, works on the equipment that AFCAP uses: the radar, the tower, and all the other equipment. He comments on how the military is phasing in civilians to do Echo Company's job.

"I am excited about it. Being able to free them up and send them home by Christmas is what we wanted. Anyway I can help the Army is great!" said Sosa.

Perry Starkey, AFCAP Air Traffic Controller, from San Antonio, TX, is also retired from the Army. He says that



Carlton Wickstrom, from Minneapolis, MN, relays weather conditions to pilots on the ground.

he is excited to be here in Afghanistan, because basically his whole family is involved in this war.

"At one time I had my son and my daughter in Iraq and I was in Afghanistan, but now she is back in Germany. I enjoy seeing different places, it's exciting to be here," said Starkey.

Planes come and go here at Kandahar Air field. Not too many people notice how much work and coordination it takes to safely land these hurtling metal masses. Everyone on KAF can sleep a little easier knowing that in AFCAP's capable hands, all the birds will be guided safely down to the ground.

Hajj from pg. 1

flight out. He is the commander of Bravo Battery, 3-6th Field Artillery Battalion out of Ft Drum, NY, and he, along with 20 American soldiers, 12 AMF members, and 5 Afghan Interpreters, provide security for the Pilgrims.

"The Afghans actually conduct the operations here," said Huffman. "Between the AMF, the Interpreters, and the Kandahar Police folks, they do it all. We are simply here to assist them. Afghans are assisting their people in this process"

The AMF conduct a thorough search of each traveler and their baggage under the watchful eyes of the U.S. troops, to ensure no one of ill intent gets through.

The travelers are then ushered into an assembly area where they are given literature relating to the Hajj and processed for the flight.

As the Pilgrims file through the checkpoints, a sense of reverence and order is felt throughout the area. Males are dressed in an all white, two-piece garment called an ihram; females are cloaked mostly in black, and are segregated in an enclosed area where a female member of the Kandahar Police Force conduct the security checks. Most of the men are long past their 50th birthday, and their flowing beards and deeply wrinkled faces reveal the extent of their faith and the significance of the journey. "Many have never traveled

before in their lives, let alone on an airplane," said Huffman. "When they first arrive, they seem a little apprehensive, but are much more relaxed when it comes time to board the airplane."

Master Sgt. Beverly Plater is a Military Police Officer with the 274th Military Police Guard Company based in Washington D.C. As the Upper Marlboro, MD native assists with the processing of the Afghan women, she discovers an infant child wrapped inside the garment of one of the women. For a brief moment, she relaxes her "all business" posture and fawns over the child, effectively drawing a smile from the mother. "These people have been extremely cooperative and a joy to work with," she said. "We have had no problems with them at all."

As the Afghans await the arrival of the Ariana flight, many busy themselves with the traditional washing of their hands and feet while others lay down rugs and face west towards Mecca for prayer. "This is a good thing for our guys to be involved in," said Staff Sgt. James L. Torrico from Buffalo, NY, assigned to Bravo Battery. "It allows us to see and



1st Sgt. Roderick Hodo, and Staff Sgt. James Torrico of the 3-6 FA, and Master Sgt. Beverly Plater of 274th MP on duty at the Hajj site

appreciate another culture." The 27-year-old Artillery Gunnery Sergeant said he had definitely noticed a greater level of acceptance from the locals and was grateful for the opportunity to be involved in something so meaningful to the people here. "The Muslim people are very disciplined in their beliefs, and it's good to see another aspect of the culture besides hunting down bad guys." Torrico added.

For Staff Sgt. Elliot Ortiz, a twelve-year Army veteran from Puerto Rico, it was the Afghan children that held a special place in his heart. As he stood guard for one of his men out on a break, he regaled the times going through cities and villages where the local children would smile, wave and give him the "thumbs-up" as he and his team drove by. "The children are who gets me," he said. "They remind me of my own kids and how much I miss them." A Communications Specialist

See Hajj pg. 5





World News

Philadelphia schools ban soda sales

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (Reuters) — Philadelphia officials have banned the sale of sodas throughout the public school system, a move nutrition experts said Thursday would help guard children against obesity.

The Philadelphia School District decided late Wednesday to end the sale of carbonated sodas in vending machines and lunch rooms. Starting July 1, schools must sell fruit juice, water, milk and flavored milk drinks instead.

Philadelphia, with about 214,000 students, is the second major U.S. school district to adopt such a policy.

Last year New York City banned soda as well as candy and sweet snacks from vending machines in its system, the largest in the United States.

Some California school districts curb soda sales but their

policies are not as strict as those in Philadelphia and New York, said Sandy Sherman, a nutrition educator at The Food Trust, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit group.

"There is not a good reason for soda to be sold in schools," said Sherman, whose group lobbied for the ban. "It contributes to obesity, type-2 diabetes and dental cavities, and

displaces milk drinking."

The American Academy of Pediatrics this month urged all school districts to restrict soda sales to reduce the risk of obesity. Each 12-ounce serving of the average soda contains the equivalent of 10 teaspoons of sugar.

More than 60 percent of Americans are

overweight or obese. In 2000, 38.8 million Americans or 31 percent of the adult population were classified as obese, meaning their health was seriously at risk.



Scientists: Dinosaurs roamed Brazil's Amazon

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (Reuters) — Scientists say they have found dinosaur fossils in Brazil's Amazon, calling it the "first proof" that the ancient creatures once roamed the region.

In a statement released this week, the Rio de Janeiro Federal University said its researchers found 110 million-year-old remains of a new genus and species of dinosaur, dubbed *Amazonsaurus maranhensis* after the state of Maranhao in northern Brazil.

The find confounded the view of many scientists that paleontology research in the Amazon rainforest is fruitless because of the high humidity, which they believe would have caused relatively rapid decay of fossils.

A dinosaur tooth was previously found in the Amazon, but it was not regarded as concrete evidence that dinosaurs once lived there.

The *Amazonsaurus*, found by Brazilians Ismar de Souza Carvalho and Leonardo dos Santos Avilla and Argentine Leonardo Salgado, belongs to the herbivorous sauropod *Diplodocus* family. The only sauropods found in Brazil before were Titanosaurs.

Amazonsaurus was about 10 meters (30 feet) long and weighed about 10 tons, making it one of the smallest sauropods. It is also the oldest found in Brazil.

The university said the fossils were found in the "preamazonian transition forest" near the Itapecuru river, along with the remains of other reptiles, mollusks and fish. This allowed the scientists to partly reconstruct the environment in which *Amazonsaurus* lived.

The researchers said similarities between the "fossil fauna" found in Maranhao and in northwestern Africa backed the theory that South America and Africa were once part of one continent






World News

Pakistan questions nuclear officials

By DAVID ROHDE

New York Times

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Authorities in Pakistan are now questioning eight officials from its nuclear weapons program — including the personal assistant to the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb and two retired brigadiers — regarding allegations that nuclear weapons technology was shared with Iran, the government's information minister said Sunday.

The minister, Sheik Rashid Ahmed, did not provide further details of the interrogations or say when they had begun. But the disclosure came a day after Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, said the country must convince the world that Pakistan is not a proliferator of nuclear weapons.

Ahmed identified one of those questioned as a personal assistant to A.Q. Khan, creator of Pakistan's first nuclear bomb. He said authorities were also questioning a retired brigadier who is the former head of security at the country's main nuclear weapons site, the Khan Research Laboratories, and one other retired brigadier.

Pakistan began an inquiry into its nuclear program in late December after U.S. intelligence officials and the U.N.'s nuclear agency said Iranian officials disclosed that Pakistanis were among middlemen who the Iranians said had aided Iran's nuclear weapons program.

U.S. intelligence officials also said they believed that Pakistan had traded nuclear technology to North Korea in exchange for missile technology. The Americans further said Pakistan was the source for designs of centrifuges used by Libya's recently disclosed nuclear program.

Pakistani officials have said no nuclear technology was transferred to Libya and no nuclear technology is currently being

transferred to North Korea. Pakistani officials have conceded the possibility that in-

dividuals motivated by personal ambition or greed may have sold nuclear technology to Iran between 1987 and 1993. Last week, Iranian and Libyan officials said they had received no nuclear assistance from Pakistan.

Telephone calls to the home of Maj. Islam Ul Haq, the personal assistant to Khan, as well as to Khan's home, were not answered Sunday night.

For the past decade, Khan has been lionized as a national hero. The reported detention of his top aide, reportedly in Khan's own home, would be unprec-

edented if true, and comes as domestic criticism of the investigation rises.

Meanwhile, Pakistani agents seized seven suspected al-Qaida militants and a weapons cache in a pre-dawn raid on an apartment complex in Karachi on Sunday, a day after Pakistan vowed to renew its fight against terrorism. Police found five hand grenades, four handguns, ammunition and maps of Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan, an intelligence officer said on condition of anonymity.

The suspects included two Egyptian and three Afghan men and two Arab women.

Hajj from pg. 4

with Bravo Battery, he echoed his respect and appreciation for the Hajj process and his involvement in it.

As Capt. Huffman escorted the base commander, Col. Burke Garrett through the process of his operation, a sense of pride washed over the Colonel's face as he surveyed his men. He knows all too well the significance of what they are doing and what it means to the local men and women embarking on their epic journey.

As the massive Airbus 300 Luxury Airliner taxied up to the gateway and the locals made their way towards the aircraft, 1st Sgt. Roderick Hodo, Bravo Battery's top enlisted man, waved to the pilgrims as they passed by. He too was swelling with pride as he watched the expressions on their faces, many unable to conceal wide grins as they clutched the thin garments covering their bodies.

"We took on this mission with great honor," said Hodo. "It was given to us on short notice with no rehearsal and my guys executed. I plan on rotating our soldiers so they can all experience this once in a lifetime event." The 34-year-old Manchester, GA native is one of the youngest first sergeants in the Army and is quick to give credit to the men he leads.

As the Afghan flagged airliner thundered down the runway and took to the sky, the pilgrims on board will undoubtedly experience the time of their lives. They will most likely return from Mecca more enlightened in their faith and be better for it. For the Americans that assisted them on their journey, their reward is in knowing they did their duty, with honor and respect, for a people they have come to embrace and admire.





THE SPORTS

Panthers stop Eagles to reach Super Bowl

NFL.com wire reports

PHILADELPHIA (Jan. 18, 2004) — They were fearless in Philly and now they're Super Bowl-bound.

The upstart Carolina Panthers became the latest team to **Peyton Manning was sacked four times and threw a season-high four interceptions**

torment the Eagles in the NFC championship game, winning a 14-3 shocker that ended with an injured Donovan McNabb watching helplessly from the sideline.

"We have a bunch of strong-willed guys, and they keep swinging their sword until they get it done," said Panthers coach John Fox, who engineered the remarkable turnaround from a 1-15 record two years ago.

In two weeks, the Panthers will face New England for the NFL title.

"They aren't going to be denied," Fox said.

Not with rookie Ricky Manning Jr. getting three interceptions against McNabb, who suffered separated rib cartilage on a second-quarter sack.

"We were attacking all day," said Manning, also a hero last week when his interception led to the winning touchdown in double overtime against the Rams.



Will Witherspoon and the Panthers defense kept Donovan McNabb under wraps.

Morgan.

"We were so physical out there," said safety Mike Minter, who forced a turnover with a ferocious hit. "We do it all the time."

And not with Stephen Davis, coming off a quadriceps injury following the win at St. Louis, rushing for 76 yards and backup DeShaun Foster getting 60 and a touchdown.

"I was ready," Davis said. "We all were ready."

The Eagles were not. Again.

They haven't won a league crown since 1960 and they haven't been to the Super Bowl since 1981. That leaves them facing another offseason of wondering what it takes to get there.

They are now the first team to lose three straight conference championship games

since the Dallas Cowboys from 1980-82. And they are the first team to host consecutive conference championships and lose both since game sites originally were determined by record in 1975.

"The writing is on the wall," cornerback Bobby Taylor said. "We pretty much know the chances of what's going to happen."

Eight days after ending the Rams' 14-game home winning streak, the Panthers marched into The Linc and grabbed their first conference crown. They'd gotten this far in 1996, their second season, but lost to Green Bay.

In January, they have routed Dallas at home before their two biggest road victories.

Now, it's on to Houston on Feb. 1 to play the Patriots, who beat Indianapolis 24-14 earlier Sunday for the AFC title.

"I'm going to try not to think about the Patriots tonight so I can at least get some sleep," quarterback Jake Delhomme said. "I don't want to think about that defense just yet."

Fox's opportunistic defense made the difference Sunday, led by a fierce pass rush and third-round draft pick Manning, who tied an NFC championship game record with his three pickoffs. The Panthers hurt McNabb in the second quarter, then destroyed Philadelphia with a powerful display in the third period.

By the final quarter, McNabb was out of
— See **Panthers** pg. 10



Not with Fox's ferocious defense producing five sacks and one more pickoff, by Dan



THE SPORTS

Pats ride defense back to the Super Bowl

NFL.com wire reports

FOXBORO, Mass (Jan. 18, 2004) — On a cold day in New England, Ty Law and the Patriots put Peyton Manning on ice.

Law intercepted the previously flawless Colts quarterback three times, Rodney Harrison added another, and the Patriots beat Indianapolis 24-14 to advance to their second Super Bowl in three seasons. Jarvis Green had three of New England's four sacks as the constant pressure made the NFL's co-MVP look very average.

The Patriots will play Carolina in the Super Bowl on Feb. 1 in Houston. The Panthers won the NFC championship by beating the Philadelphia Eagles 14-3.

Had New England been able to score down close, it would have been no contest. The Patriots had only one TD, settled for five field goals by Adam Vinatieri and lost the ball at the Indy 5 early in the fourth quarter when Tom Brady threw his first interception in 10 home games this season.

"To go out and pick, pick, pick a guy that everybody was building up. It was huge for us," Harrison said, referring to Manning, who threw eight touchdowns with no interceptions in playoff wins over Denver and Kansas City.

The Colts never really got going Sunday until it was too late to do anything against a defense that held Marvin

Harrison, one of the game's leading receivers, to three catches for 19 yards.

Things were so bad that when the Colts finally had to punt for the first time in the playoffs, the snap went over the punter's head and resulted in a safety.

"They did a good job defending us but we did things we haven't done. We turned the ball over, we snapped a poor snap on the punt," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "We made some miscues and New England is a good enough team to take advantage of that."

Except when he got close to the goal line, Brady was almost as good in the cold weather as Manning had been in his first two games under far more ideal conditions.

He finished 22 of 37 for 237



Peyton Manning was sacked four times and threw a season-high four interceptions

yards and a 7-yard TD pass to David Givens on the first drive of the game and Antowain Smith added 100 yards on 22 carries.

The Patriots improved to 16-2 by winning their 14th straight game, the best single-season streak since the perfect Miami Dolphins did it in 1972.

"To win 14 in a row is great," Brady said. "But it means nothing if you don't get the 15th."

With the victory, coach Bill Belichick is 5-0 in the postseason with the Patriots, who won the NFL championship two years ago by beating St. Louis.

New England dominated early, taking the opening kickoff right down the field for a touchdown on the pass from Brady to Givens. It was 15-0 at the half on two of Vinatieri's field goals plus the safety on the botched punt.

"We knew we could move the ball on them," said New England tight end Christian Fauria. "We thought the mismatch was our offense against their defense."

The Colts (14-5) cut it to 15-7 on Edgerrin James' 2-yard TD run at the start of the third quarter. But Brady led New England to two more short field goals and the defense took it from there. Indianapolis scored with 2:27 left on a 7-yard TD pass to Marcus Pollard, making it 21-14.

But Fauria recovered the ensuing onside kick for the Patriots. The Colts got the ball back on downs, but the Patriots' defense held them.

"I just made some bad throws, some bad decisions," said Manning, whose passer rating was nearly perfect until this week. The four interceptions were the most he had thrown since Nov. 25, 2001, when he threw four against San Francisco.

"I thought the Patriots played extremely well and we didn't," he added.

He finished 23 of 47 for 237 yards, with one touchdown and four interceptions.

The Patriots dominated the first half, forcing three early turnovers. Two of them stopped potential scores by the Colts and the third led to a field goal. Still, 15-0 wasn't much of a lead against a team known for coming back from big deficits.

New England went 65 yards in 13 plays for a touchdown on the opening drive of the game, with Brady finding a wide-open Givens from 7 yards out for the score. Brady threw for 49 yards on the drive and Givens had four catches. But the key play was a 2-yard sneak by the New England quarterback on fourth-and-1 from his own 44.

Manning seemed ready to counter, driving the Colts 68 yards to the New England 5. But on third down, Harrison stepped in front of Pollard and picked off the ball, the first in-

See Patriots pg. 10





HEADLINERS



Drunk driver forced to carry photo of victim in coffin cries foul

By The Associated Press

(BUTLER, PA) — A judge ordered a woman to carry a photo of the man she killed in a head-on collision, and the man's parents complied by sending a picture of him in his casket. Now, her lawyer is crying foul and the family is refusing to provide another picture.

Prosecutors said Jennifer Langston was drunk and talking on a cell phone in June 2002 when she crossed the center line and hit a pickup truck carrying teacher Glenn Clark and his pregnant wife, Annette. He died, his wife remains in a coma and their son, born by Caesarean section five months after the crash, is being raised by relatives.

Besides vehicular homicide, Langston pleaded guilty in September to reckless endangerment and reckless driving. A judge sentenced her to 30 days in jail, plus house arrest and probation, and ordered her to carry a picture of Clark for five years. Clark's parents gave court officials a photo of their son in his coffin.

At a hearing Wednesday, Langston's attorney, Michael Sherman, said the "spirit of the agreement" was that the photo be of Clark when he was alive.

"It was very unreasonable and cruel that she was given that picture," Sherman said.

District Attorney Tim McCune agreed to have the family provide a different photo.

But Rosellen Moller, Clark's mother, was unapologetic and said she had no intention of sending another picture.

"I thought it was cruel and unusual to kill my son," she told The Herald in Sharon. "We really didn't have a choice. They wanted me to send a picture of Glenn and I did."

McCune was not immediately available for comment Friday about Moller's statement.

At the hearing, Sherman also objected to making Langston pay \$20,000 to the state Victim's Compensation Fund. The judge said he would rule on the photo issue and the payment question after both sides submit written arguments.

Man bitten in groin by stolen snake stashed in his pocket

By The Associated Press

(GREENWICH, NJ) — That really was a snake in his pocket — and police say it left a sharp impression.

According to officers in Franklin Township, New Jersey, a 20-year-old man stole two tiger python snakes from a pet store. Officers didn't identify man.

They say he was bitten in the groin area by one of the non-poisonous snakes. According to police, the man slipped the snakes into canvas bags he rigged in his pants pockets. But as the man drove home, one of the snakes slithered out of the bag, wrapped itself around his leg and bit him.

He's been charged with receiving stolen property. Other charges are pending.

Questionable New Products:

Triumph International, the Swiss maker of unmentionables, presented a prototype of an anti-smoking brassiere containing perfumes (including lavender and jasmine) that are turned unpleasant by tobacco smoke. And in November, Jones Soda Co. of Seattle bottled 6,000 units of turkey-and-gravy soda, which, remarkably, has the consistency and taste of pureed turkey and gravy; also remarkably, the entire run sold out, with some bottles offered at a huge premium on eBay. [Agence France-Presse, 11-7-03] [Seattle Times, 11-15-03]





HEADLINERS

U.S. plans extra air power in Asia

By **ROBERT BURNS**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon plans to shift long-range bombers and other warplanes to Guam and elsewhere in Asia and the Pacific to offset a loss of combat power as thousands of American soldiers and Marines in that region depart for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, officials say.

The moves, which have not been publicly announced, are designed to lower the risk that commanders in the Pacific — especially those responsible for the defense of South Korea against a strike by the North — might be left with too little firepower to deter an attack, the officials said.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, alluded to the plan without disclosing details when he was asked during a visit to Japan last week about the Pentagon's plan to send to Iraq Marines who otherwise would be on the Japanese island of Okinawa.

"That they're gone means that we're going to have to make other arrangements to ensure stability in the region," Myers replied. He said that did not mean substituting other ground forces for the Marines.

Other officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said extra air power would be introduced in the region to offset the loss of ground forces. They said bombers and perhaps other planes probably would operate from Guam, a U.S. territory in ready striking distance of North Korea.

Extra planes might also be dispatched to Kadena Air Base on Okinawa and perhaps elsewhere in Asia, they added, and some fighter or other units in the United States may be put on higher alert.

A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Flex Plexico, said the Iraq operation will not weaken U.S. defenses elsewhere. "Should the need arise for U.S. forces to defend Korea or conduct major military operations elsewhere in the world, sufficient forces could be made available to do so on short notice," he said.

Chinese court sentences company manager to death for smuggling vegetable oils

Associated Press

BEIJING — A Chinese court sentenced a company manager to death Sunday for smuggling vegetable oils through the southern province of Guangdong and bribing customs officers to help him, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Yang Gaiqing, 48, was convicted of evading more than \$290 million in tariffs by smuggling 910,000 tons of edible oils into mainland China, including olive and soybean oil, it said.

Yang was sentenced by the Intermediate People's Court of Shenzhen. A resident of Hong Kong, he is the former general manager of the Huiwei Industry and Trade Co. Ltd.

Prosecutors alleged he paid nearly \$1 million in bribes to the former head of Shenzhen Customs, Zhao Yucun, and his relatives in a combination of U.S. dollars, Hong Kong dollars and Chinese yuan.

Yang also gave more than \$300,000 in bribes to Zhu Haotang, the former head of Huizhou Customs, and his relatives, in Chinese yuan and Hong Kong dollars, the news agency said.

Zhao and Zhu have been jailed on charges of taking the bribes, while Yang plans to appeal his sentence, Xinhua said.





Panthers from pg. 6

the game and the Eagles were out of options.

"It's going to be hard to swallow again," McNabb admitted.

With McNabb sidelined, led the Eagles to the Carolina 11, but then forced a throw over the middle that Morgan grabbed.

Overall, McNabb was just 10 of 22 for 100 yards. He could provide none of the heroics of last week, when he rallied the Eagles over Green Bay 20-17 in overtime. This decisive loss will erase the glory of "fourth-and-26," the play that saved Philadelphia's season — for one week.

Carolina barely needed Delhomme's passing and he was a mere 9 of 14 for 101 yards.

"The defense played lights out," Delhomme said.

Manning's third interception — off a deflection when receiver James Thrash was hit by Minter — and his 17-yard return was critical. So was the inability of the Eagles' secondary to make the same kind of plays.

Lito Sheppard's 14-yard interference penalty against put Carolina at the 1. Foster then powered through four tacklers for a 14-3 lead with 4:11 left in the third quarter.

In the first half, despite double coverage, Muhsin Muhammad

made a 24-yard touchdown catch for a 7-0 lead.

"That was a play I could have made," Taylor said. "No excuse. I turned around and it was too late."

Earlier in the second quarter, on a third-and-1, Foster fumbled, but teammate Jermaine Wiggins pounced on it for a 2-yard gain. Soon after, Muhammad came back for the ball when Taylor and Brian Dawkins didn't.

Unfazed, Philadelphia marched to the Carolina 23, where McNabb tripped going back to pass and was sacked by Mike Rucker. Shaken with the rib injury, he left for one play, then returned to complete a 10-yard pass to Freddie Mitchell that originally was ruled a drop.

But after coach Andy Reid's successful replay challenge, David Akers kicked a 41-yard field goal for the Eagles' only points.

Manning picked off McNabb's poor pass with 47 seconds remaining in the first half, which ended 7-3.

Manning's second interception was even more significant. He stepped in front of Todd Pinkston on a third down from the Carolina 18 and McNabb threw the ball directly to him. Manning celebrated with an Ali Shuffle.

He'd deliver the knockout punch a little later and had three interceptions

Patriots from pg. 9

terception for Manning in three postseason games.

Vinatieri's 31-yard field goal 2:16 into the second quarter made it 10-0.

Law's first interception, a one-handed over-the-shoulder grab, came on Indy's first play of the next series. New England drove 52 yards — including another fourth-down conversion on a pass from Brady to Troy Brown — to set up Vinatieri's 25-yarder that made it 13-0.

Then came what was supposed to be Indianapolis' first punt of the postseason. Instead, Justin Snow snapped the ball over the head of punter, who had little choice but to kick it out of the end zone for a safety.

Indy's best chance before intermission came after David Macklin recovered Bethel Johnson's fumble at the New England 41. But five plays later, Rodney Harrison knocked the ball loose from Marvin Harrison, fell on it, and the Patriots had the ball back.

Indy's first score came on the opening possession of the second half. The Colts drove 52 yards on 12 plays with James going in from 2 yards.

But Brady hit Larry Centers for 28 yards on the first play from



scrimmage after the score and then found Brown for 17 to set up a 27-yarder by Vinatieri that made it 18-7. Brady put together another drive that set up Vinatieri's fourth field goal with 1:32 left in the third quarter.

That was really the end for Indy.

"They have very good players and they are well coached, which helps the good players play better," Dungy said. "They are a really talented group."





NFL WEEK 20 SCORES

Conference Championships

Sunday, January 18, 2004

Final	1	2	3	4	T	Final	1	2	3	4	T
Indianapolis (14-5-0)	0	0	7	7	14	Carolina (14-5-0) «	0	7	7	0	14
New England (16-2-0) «	7	8	6	3	24	Philadelphia (13-5-0)	0	3	0	0	3

Courtesy of NFL.com

KAN DAHR WEEKLY FORECAST

	Mon Jan 19	Tues Jan 20	Wed Jan 21	Thur Jan 22	Fri Jan 23	Sat Jan 24	Sun Jan 25
	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy With showers	Cloudy With AM Fog	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy
HIGH	55	54	52	52	50	50	53
LOW	30	32	36	29	27	32	38
SUNRISE	0236	0235	0235	0235	0235	0234	0234
SUNSET	1259	1300	1301	1301	1301	1303	1304

KANDAHAR COMBAT WEATHER TEAM

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